

**Who is responsible  
for what...**

# **Sea Turtle Protocols**



# **Pelagic Longline**

## **Vessel Responsibility**

- **Scan main line as far ahead as possible during gear retrieval to sight turtle in advance.**
- **Upon sighting a turtle, slow speed of vessel and adjust direction.**
- **Retrieve branch line slowly.**
- **Maintain slack on the branch line to keep the turtle close.**
- **Laminated instruction card will be provided.**

# **When the Turtle is Alongside the Vessel**

- The vessel and observer will assess the turtle's condition and size.**
- If animal is small and conditions allow for it to be brought aboard safely, a crew member will use a dip net to bring the turtle on the vessel.**
- The protocol for turtle boated will be followed.**
- If turtle cannot be brought onboard, the protocol for turtles not boated will be followed.**

# **Turtles Not Boated**

- **Vessel is responsible for turtle's safety.**
- **All line, gear, and hooks should be removed by Vessel.**
- **Vessel, under supervision of Observer, should take biopsy.**

# **Turtles Not Boated Observer Responsibilities**

- **Identify species.**
- **Photograph turtle.**
- **Record capture and biological information.**
- **Store biopsy sample.**
- **Report daily on effort and protected species interactions (as requested).**

# **Turtles Boated**

## **Vessel Responsibilities**

- **Provide means, such as a tire, to safely isolate and immobilize animal.**

# **Turtles Boated**

## **Vessel and Observer Responsibilities**

- **Safety and handling of turtle while on board.**
- **Minimize possible injury.**
- **Keep in the shade and moist.**
- **Maintain body temperature above 60° F, similar to catch and release water temperature.**

# **Turtles Boated**

## **Vessel and Observer Responsibilities**

- Resuscitate comatose turtles.**
- Remove all line, gear, and hooks.**
- Release turtle by lowering close to water's surface when engines are in neutral in waters of similar temperature as at capture.**
- Carefully observe newly released turtle and record observations on apparent ability to swim and dive.**



# **Turtles Boated**

## **Observer Responsibilities**

- **Identify species, record capture and biological information, and store biopsy sample.**
- **Report daily on effort and protected species interactions daily (as requested).**

# **Turtles Boated**

## **Observer Responsibilities**

- **Photograph turtle.**
- **Measure carapace dimensions.**
- **Place inconel tags on rear flippers.**
- **Insert Passive Integrated Transponders (PIT tags) into left front flippers.**
- **Take biopsy samples for genetic analysis.**

# **Turtles Boated**

## **Observer Responsibilities**

- **Other tasks, as requested, such as:**

**Attach conventional or pop-up satellite tags to selected turtles.**

**Administer a dose of antibiotics.**